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Letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to re-forward the attached Government Memorandum on the Role of Diamonds in the Conflict in Sierra Leone, and the Establishment of a Certificate of Origin Regime for the Export of Rough Diamonds from Sierra Leone.

I should be grateful if the said Memorandum could be issued as a document of the Security Council

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Sierra Leone Government

Office of the President

28 June 2000

Memorandum on the role of diamonds in the conflict in Sierra Leone and the establishment of a Certificate of Origin regime for the export of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone

The Government wishes to confirm that its Certificate of Origin scheme will be forwarded to the United Nations Sanctions Committee. The Government understands that the Committee would then assess its effectiveness and report to the Security Council thereon. The Government does not anticipate that approval will be sought from the Committee before the Government issues any certificate once the Committee has reviewed the form of the Certificate.

The Government concurs with the idea that the export of diamonds from Sierra Leone would be temporarily prohibited until such time that a Certificate of Origin scheme is in full operation. This concurrence is based on the clear understanding that the temporary prohibition and the process of assessment by the Sanctions Committee and endorsement by the Security Council would not be prolonged.

Furthermore, it is the view of the Government of Sierra Leone that the illicit export of Sierra Leone diamonds, especially through Liberia, is a major cause of the conflict in Sierra Leone, and constitutes the most formidable impediment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

(*Signed*) James B. **Allie**
Secretary to the President